

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 125 - HB 73

January 30, 2017

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the P.O.W.-M.I.A. flag to be displayed over the State Capitol on any day that the United States flag is displayed for the purpose of increasing public awareness of the P.O.W.-M.I.A. issue and to gain public support for the efforts of the United States government to resolve this matter.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$100,000/One-Time
Exceeds \$1,000/Recurring**

Assumptions:

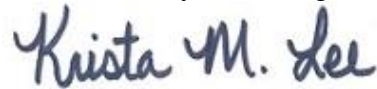
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 58-4-301(a), the P.O.W.-M.I.A. flag shall be displayed over the State Capitol at least during Tennessee P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Week.
- Tennessee Code Annotated § 4-1-406(a) requires flags to be flown from top to bottom as follows: the official United States flag, the official state flag, and any other flags.
- Currently, the United States flag and the Tennessee state flag are always displayed on the capitol building. Additionally, the flag of the Tennessee General Assembly is flown when the General Assembly is in session.
- Based on information provided by the Department of General Services (DGS), a study has been conducted to evaluate the structural integrity of the flag pole on top of the State Capitol. The study concluded that the pole was most likely constructed to hold only two flags and the cupola iron materials that support the base of the pole would likely not support the additional stress caused by a fourth flag. Therefore, structural modifications would need to be made to the cupola and support mechanism of the flag pole.
- A project was approved by the State Building Commission on November 14, 2013, to restore the cupola on the State Capitol. This project began in November 2016 and is scheduled for completion in November 2017. According to the DGS, the original decorative cast iron elements on top of the cupola will be removed, repaired, repainted, and reinstalled as they were last refurbished during the previous 1956-58 restoration project.
- DGS confirms that the scope of the current project to refurbish the copula will not be sufficient for flying four flags on the flag pole above the State Capitol. The department indicates that adding additional steel to the top of the copula is not possible because of its age and composition. In order for four flags to fly above the Capitol, the copula

would have to be replaced which would require approval from the Historical Commission, including design and engineering work; all of which is beyond the scope of the current project.

- Based on information provided by DGS, the one-time increase in state expenditures to update the cupola materials that support the base of the pole sufficient that four flags could be flown is estimated to exceed \$100,000.
- Due to environmental damage, flags are replaced a minimum of 12 times per year.
- The cost of a P.O.W.-M.I.A. flag is estimated to be \$80.
- The recurring increase in state expenditures for flag purchases is estimated to exceed \$960 (\$80 per flag x 12 per year).

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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